

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 -----X  
4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : 05-CR-842 (ARR)  
5 :  
6 v. : April 11, 2007  
7 THEODORE PAPAHAZIS, : Brooklyn, New York  
8 Defendant. :  
9 -----X

**FILED**  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
★ IN CLERK'S OFFICE  
MAY 09 2007  
BROOKLYN OFFICE

10 TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR PLEADING  
11 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOAN M. AZRACK  
12 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

13 APPEARANCES:

14 For the Government: UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
15 BY: E. SCOTT MORVILLO, ESQ.  
16 Assistant United States Attorney  
One Pierrepont Plaza  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
17 For the Defendant: JOEL WINOGRAD, ESQ.  
18 Winograd & Winograd, P.C.  
19 450 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10123  
20 Court Transcriber: CARLA NUTTER  
21 TypeWrite Word Processing Service  
22 356 Eltingville Boulevard  
23 Staten Island, New York 10312  
24  
25

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording,  
transcript produced by transcription service

1 THE CLERK: Criminal Cause for Pleading, 05-CR-842,  
2 United States v. Theodore Papahatzis.

3 Counsel, please state your appearances for the  
4 record.

5 MR. MORVILLO: Scott Morvillo for the United States.  
6 Good morning, Your Honor.

7 MR. WINOGRAD: Joel Winograd for the defendant. Good  
8 morning, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Good morning.

10 Mr. Papahatzis, the first matter we need to take up  
11 is for me to inquire as to whether you consent to me,  
12 Magistrate Azrack, hearing your plea. As you know, your case  
13 is assigned to Judge Ross and if your plea is accepted she'll  
14 be sentencing you but she's asked me to hear your plea and I  
15 can't hear your plea without your consent. So that's my first  
16 question. Is that all right with you that I hear your plea?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Yes.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Now, I have to ask you a series of  
19 questions which are part of the plea proceeding. It's  
20 important that you understand all of my questions because when  
21 you answer them you're going to be under oath which means if  
22 you gave a false answer to any of my questions you could be  
23 charged with the additional crime which is the crime of perjury  
24 or making a false statement when you're under oath. Do you  
25 understand that?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Would you please swear, Mr.  
3 Papahatzis?

4 (Theodore Papahatzis, Defendant, Sworn.)

5 THE COURT: All right. What is your full name?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Theodore Papahatzis.

7 THE COURT: And how old are you?

8 THE DEFENDANT: I'm 32.

9 THE COURT: How far did you go in school?

10 THE DEFENDANT: One year in college.

11 THE COURT: Are you presently under the care of any  
12 doctors?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: For what condition?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Knee -- I had knee surgery -- left  
16 knee surgery.

17 THE COURT: And how long ago was that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Four years when I had one and I need  
19 another one now.

20 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Are you taking any medication  
21 in connection with that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

23 THE COURT: What are you taking?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Hydrocortisone.

25 THE COURT: What is that?

1 THE DEFENDANT: It's a pain medicine for the knee.

2 THE COURT: And when did you last take it?

3 THE DEFENDANT: This morning before I came about  
4 9:30.

5 THE COURT: Does it effect your ability to think  
6 clearly?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Not at all.

8 THE COURT: Have you taken any other medicine in the  
9 last 24 hours?

10 THE DEFENDANT: I take medicine for the dermatologist  
11 for my acne also.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Any narcotics (audio goes blank  
13 for approximately three seconds) or alcohol in the last 24  
14 hours?

15 THE DEFENDANT: No.

16 THE COURT: Is your mind clear today?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Have you ever been treated for drug  
19 addiction?

20 THE DEFENDANT: No.

21 THE COURT: Do you understand what's going on here  
22 today?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Winograd, have you discussed this  
25 matter with your client?

1 MR. WINOGRAD: I have, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Please stay seated. Remain seated.

3 Yes?

4 MR. WINOGRAD: Yes.

5 THE COURT: And in your view does he understand the  
6 rights he'll be waiving by pleading guilty?

7 MR. WINOGRAD: He does, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Do you have any questions about his  
9 competence?

10 MR. WINOGRAD: None whatsoever.

11 THE COURT: Did you advise him of the maximum  
12 sentence and fine that can be imposed?

13 MR. WINOGRAD: Yes, I did.

14 THE COURT: Have you also discussed the sentencing  
15 guidelines with him?

16 MR. WINOGRAD: On a number of occasions, I have.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Papahatzis, have you had  
18 enough time to discuss your case with Mr. Winograd?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Are you satisfied to have him represent  
21 you?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Absolutely.

23 THE COURT: Did you receive a copy of the superseding  
24 indictment containing the charges?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Did you read the indictment?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Do you understand that in Count One  
4 you're charged with participating in a conspiracy or agreement  
5 to possess and to possess with intent to distribute marijuana  
6 and/or Ecstasy and cocaine? Do you understand that?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: And have you discussed these charges with  
9 Mr. Winograd?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Papahatzis, you have a right to plead  
12 not guilty to the charges in the indictment. Do you understand  
13 that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: And if you plead not guilty you are  
16 entitled to a speedy, public trial by a jury with Mr.  
17 Winograd's assistance. Understand?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: And at the trial you would be presumed  
20 innocent and the government would have to overcome the  
21 presumption of innocence and the government would have to prove  
22 your guilt by competent evidence and beyond a reasonable doubt.  
23 You would not have to prove that you were innocent. If the  
24 government failed to prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt  
25 the jury at the trial would then have a duty to find you not

1 guilty. Do you understand that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: If you went to trial, at trial witnesses  
4 for the government would come to court and they would testify  
5 before you and Mr. Winograd would have a right to cross-examine  
6 those witnesses and he could object to evidence offered by the  
7 government and he could offer evidence for you. Do you  
8 understand that?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: In addition, at trial while you would  
11 have a right to testify if you wanted to, no one could force  
12 you to take the witness stand because under our Constitution a  
13 defendant in a criminal case cannot be forced to be a witness  
14 against himself. So if you went to trial and you decided you  
15 did not want to testify at your trial Judge Ross would actually  
16 direct the jury that they couldn't hold the fact that you had  
17 not testified against you. Do you understand that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Now, if you plead guilty and your plea is  
20 accepted there will be no trial. You will have given up your  
21 right to the trial and instead the Court will simply enter a  
22 judgment of guilty based on your plea here this morning.  
23 Understand?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: In addition if you plead guilty I'm going

1 to have to ask you questions about what you actually did  
2 because I have to be satisfied that you are really guilty of  
3 the charge. When you answer my questions you will be giving up  
4 your right not to be a witness against yourself. Do you  
5 understand?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Papahatzis, are you willing to give  
8 up your right to the trial?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: I have a plea agreement I'm going to hand  
11 to you and ask you whether you've read that agreement very  
12 carefully?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

14 THE COURT: Have you read that carefully?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

16 THE COURT: And after you read that plea agreement  
17 did you discuss it with Mr. Winograd?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: After you two discussed the plea  
20 agreement did you understand everything in it?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Do you agree to the terms that are  
23 contained in it?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Did you sign it at the end to show your



1 agreement?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Has anybody made any promise to you about  
4 this case that's not contained in that plea agreement?

5 THE DEFENDANT: No.

6 THE COURT: Has anyone made a promise to you about  
7 what your sentence will be?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No.

9 THE COURT: Do you understand there is a maximum  
10 twenty year term of imprisonment for this charge?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Do you further understand that there is a  
13 term of supervised release of at least three years and a  
14 maximum supervised release term of life and I'm sure Mr.  
15 Winograd has explained this to you but supervised release is  
16 like a form of probation. When you're on it for whatever term  
17 Judge Ross sets you're free, you're at liberty but you're under  
18 the supervision of the Probation Department and you must abide  
19 by any conditions that they set of that supervision. If you  
20 violate a condition of your supervised release, depending on  
21 how serious the violation is, you could be ordered to prison  
22 for up to two additional years. Do you understand that?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Now, there is a fine up to \$1 million.  
25 Do you understand that?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 THE COURT: There is a mandatory \$100.00 special  
3 assessment. Do you understand that?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Now, have you and Mr. Winograd discussed  
6 the sentencing guidelines?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: I'm sure he explained to you that the  
9 sentencing guidelines which used to be mandatory for Judges are  
10 no longer mandatory but are now advisory and what that means is  
11 that Judge Ross will look to the sentencing guidelines as one  
12 factor along with many other factors that she will consider in  
13 deciding how to sentence you. Do you understand that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Also, prior to your sentencing you will  
16 get a chance to read a document called the Presentence report  
17 and that's all about you and circumstances of the crime and it  
18 will recommend a guideline to the Judge for sentencing. If you  
19 think there is something wrong in the report you can have a  
20 hearing on what you believe is incorrect prior to your  
21 sentencing. Do you understand that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

23 THE COURT: In addition, under certain limited  
24 circumstances you can appeal your sentence but I see that in --  
25 I think in Paragraph 4 here of your plea agreement you've

1 agreed not to appeal your sentence or challenge your conviction  
2 if Judge Ross sentences you to fourteen months or less?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

4 THE COURT: So the only situation in which you could  
5 appeal would be if Judge Ross sentenced you to more than  
6 fourteen months. Do you understand that?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Is there anything else in the plea  
9 agreement you would like me to review with the defendant, Mr.  
10 Morvillo?

11 MR. MORVILLO: Your Honor, I think Mr. Winograd wants  
12 me to put on the record that Mr. Papahatzis has successfully  
13 safety valved and based on the information that the government  
14 possesses at this time the government believes that Mr.  
15 Papahatzis is entitled to the two point reduction for safety  
16 valve.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Do you understand that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Anything else you want me to review?

20 MR. WINOGRAD: No, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 Mr. Papahatzis, do you have any questions about the  
23 charge or your rights or anything else relating to this matter?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No.

25 THE COURT: Are you ready to plead?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Winograd, do you know of any reason  
3 why Mr. Papahatzis should not plead guilty?

4 MR. WINOGRAD: No, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Papahatzis, what is your  
6 plea to Count One of the superseding indictment? Guilty or not  
7 guilty?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

9 THE COURT: Are you making this plea of guilty  
10 voluntarily and of your own free will?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Has anybody threatened or forced you to  
13 plead guilty?

14 THE DEFENDANT: No.

15 THE COURT: Describe to me in your own words what it  
16 is you did between March 2005 and November 2005 to participate  
17 in this drug conspiracy?

18 THE DEFENDANT: In 2005 I conspired with others to  
19 distribute Marijuana.

20 THE COURT: And where did you do this?

21 THE DEFENDANT: In the Eastern District of New York.

22 THE COURT: Where?

23 THE DEFENDANT: In Brooklyn.

24 THE COURT: And does that mean you conspired to sell  
25 Marijuana?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Not to sell, I was laying out --  
2 doing a favor and laying out the money for one of my friends.

3 THE COURT: For one of your friends to do what?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Well, he was looking to buy it and  
5 then resell it to somebody else.

6 THE COURT: And so you financed it?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: And did you understand that that's what  
9 you were financing?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: You were financing Marijuana sales?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Sales. Right.

13 THE COURT: And did you do this on one occasion?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: And you knew it was against the law to do  
16 that?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: And you knew the money that you were  
19 fronting him to do this was going to be used to buy and sell  
20 Marijuana?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Anything else?

23 MR. MORVILLO: No, Judge.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Based on the information I've  
25 heard I find that Mr. Papahatzis is acting voluntarily, fully

1 understands his rights and the consequences of his plea and  
2 that there is an adequate factual basis for his plea to Count  
3 One of the superseding indictment so I recommend to Judge Ross  
4 that this plea of guilty be accepted.

5 Sentencing, I guess, will be set by Probation and  
6 then you're out on a bond; is that right?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 MR. WINOGRAD: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Is there any objection to his bail being  
10 continued?

11 MR. MORVILLO: No, Judge.

12 THE COURT: Okay. So your bail conditions are the  
13 same. Thank you.

14 MR. MORVILLO: Thank you, Judge.

15 MR. WINOGRAD: Thank you, Your Honor

16 \* \* \* \* \*

17

18

19

20

21

22

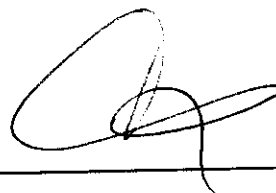
23

24

25

\* \* \* \* \*

I certify that the foregoing is a transcript from an  
electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-  
entitled matter.



CARLA NUTTER

Dated: May 6, 2007